

SWINTON ROCKINGHAM WARD

Covering Swinton Town Centre and West Swinton



Councillor
Gina Monk



Councillor
Ken Wyatt

Report to Full Council

November 2022

Ward priorities

- Environment improvements
- Enhancing facilities and activities for children and young people
- Community facility / activities including celebrating local heritage
- Addressing crime and anti-social behaviour
- Support for the cost-of-living crisis

How these ward priorities were agreed

We used a range of information to inform our Ward Plan priorities for the Swinton Rockingham Ward:-

- The new Ward boundaries and Ward profile.
- Feedback from residents and stakeholders
- Speaking to local organisations and individuals, and partners working and/or living within the Ward
- Existing local knowledge

How these ward priorities support the Thriving Neighbourhoods strategy

Our approach to ward working has been centred on the Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy by putting our community at the heart of everything we do by:-

- Working with communities on the things that matter to them
- Listening and working together to make a difference

Working in partnership

We have worked with colleagues within the Council and also: -

Swinton Community Focus Group, South Yorkshire Police, Highfield Court, Swinton Community Sports Ground Trust, St Margaret's Church, St Johns Church, Friends of Swinton Station, Local businesses and Schools throughout the ward

Progress so far

Environmental improvements – We are very passionate about the cleanliness of our streets and green spaces and support the dedicated work of the Swinton Community Focus Group who are out regularly in our ward litter picking. We also work closely with the Council's Housing Department to enable as many community skips to be provided as possible with two new skip locations having been piloted this year to allow more residents in our ward the opportunity to get involved. We have recently provided funding to the Swinton Community Focus Group to plant new trees in the ward to remember those lost or who suffered hardship in the ward during the Covid 19 pandemic, for the Queens Jubilee and in memory of Her Majesty the Queen.

Enhancing facilities and activities for children and young people – We have identified a park in our ward that has a lot of underused space and potential for more facilities to be provided for the community to enjoy. As part of a number of projects being investigated, we have rolled up our sleeves and taken charge of the paint brushes to give a new lease of life to Thomas Streets goal posts, swing frame and entrance gate.

Community facility / activities including celebrating local heritage – We have been actively encouraging residents to discover and use the wonderful historic site of Pottery Ponds. We arranged a free Teddy Bears Picnic in the summer of 2022 which was a fantastic success. We funded the hire of some fun games for children to enjoy and Rotherham United came along to undertake some football skills sessions with young people. The Council's Museum Service opened the Waterloo Kiln for residents to see inside and learn more about the Rockingham Pottery history at the site. Partners such as the Police, the Council's Early Help Team and Rotherfed came along with stalls to offer residents information on the work they do.

Addressing crime, ASB and improving community safety – Swinton was fortunate to receive funding from the South Yorkshire Crime Commissioner to tackle crime across the Dearne Valley. The funding has allowed the purchase of a number of CCTV cameras for use on lamp posts, automatic number plate recognition cameras have been purchased, free smart water property marking kits were offered to residents along with a large amount of crime prevention advice and public events were run where residents could speak to the Police and collect free crime prevention goods. Vehicle speeding is also an important issue for our ward, so we are working closely with the Local Police Team and support them on Community Speed Watch sessions. We are undertaking several high-visibility estate walkabouts with partners which have been an excellent opportunity for residents to speak to officers about their concerns too.

Support for the cost-of-living crisis – We have continued to support local food banks and promoted a fabulous community led initiative to enable parents to donate school uniforms that their children have grown out of but are still in good condition and allow parents the opportunity to get the school uniform items their children need for free.

